



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

State Fire Marshal

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To The Rhode Island Business Community:

Over the past ten years our state has been enforcing the 2003 Edition of NFPA 1 & 101, along with the Rhode Island Fire Code Amendments. Under these codes the requirement for a "crowd manager or crowd manager supervisor" was limited to larger assembly occupancies with an occupant load of 1000 or greater. Under the Rhode Island Amendments, establishments requiring a "crowd manager or crowd manager supervisor" included nightclubs, organized dining establishments, and bed and breakfasts. Crowd manager training has been offered through the Rhode Island State Fire Marshals Office at no cost.

Many of you may not be aware that as we hailed in a new calendar year, Rhode Island has also adopted a newer version of the fire code laws. NFPA 1 & 101 2012 Edition and the Rhode Island Amendments have been modified to reflect current technology along with a more conscientious community. Heighten levels of personal security; along with statistical data have evolved into this newer version of the fire code, which has become more user friendly.

In the past, those who attended crowd manager training were issued a certification of completion. The certificate carried no expiration date and with accountability becoming a major factor in today's society, this created a potential problem. Approximately three years ago, the certificate program was done away with and a newer version of the crowd manager program was adopted. Those who now complete a training session are issued a license instead of a certificate. This license is valid for three years and allows us to keep updated records of those who choose to become a crowd manager. To date, we can proudly say that approximately 1000 people carry this crowd manager license. Our program has received national exposure and has also been demonstrated, at least three times, during past National Fire Protection Association world expos, in Chicago and Las Vegas. Several on-line variations of our crowd manager program have now been developed and are currently in use today.

The new code requires that the crowd manager training is to be offered through the State Fire Marshal's Office. The new language is as follows:

RATIO

- NFPA 101 12/13.7.5.1 Assembly occupancies shall be provided with a minimum of one trained crowd manager or crowd manager supervisor. Where the occupant load exceeds **250**, additional trained crowd managers or crowd manager supervisors shall be provided at a ratio of **1** crowd manager/supervisor for every **250** occupants, unless otherwise permitted by the following:
 - (1) This requirement shall not apply to assembly occupancies used exclusively for religious worship with an occupant load not exceeding 2000.
 - (2) The ratio of trained crowd managers to occupants shall be permitted to be reduced where, in the opinion of the authority having jurisdiction, the existence of an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system and the nature of the event warrant.
- NFPA 101 12.7.5.2 The crowd manager shall receive approved training in crowd management techniques.

Some of you are probably wondering what is assembly occupancy. NFPA defines an Assembly Occupancy as;

NFPA 101 3.3.152.2* Assembly Occupancy. An occupancy

- (1) used for a gathering of 50 or more persons for deliberation, worship, entertainment, eating, drinking, amusement, awaiting transportation, or similar uses; or
- (2) used as a special amusement building, regardless of occupant load.

Under this current law the requirement for crowd manager has expanded to encompass “all assembly occupancies”. This means that there may be existing facilities which fall under this definition of assembly occupancy that in the past were not required to have a crowd manager or crowd manager supervisor. Under the new law, they are now required to maintain a crowd manager. In addition, our Rhode Island Amendments have been modified to eliminate “Bed and Breakfast” occupancies from this requirement.

If you are an owner or manager of one of these establishments and you do not currently hold a valid crowd manager license or if you currently have a certificate, then you need think about complying with the new law and now be licensed. Crowd manager training is currently offered free of charge on a monthly bases. Most classes are held at the Office of State Fire Marshal, 118 Parade Street, Providence, RI 02909 from 6 to 10 pm. For a current listing of dates and locations, please log onto our website www.fire-marshal.ri.gov, click onto the word “News” in the upper left corner of the page. Simply scroll to the one entitled “Crowd Manager Classes”.

In 2013 we will try to provide several daytime classes, so please visit our website for times. Also note that if you are an agency that requires multiple people to be licensed, then private classes of 10 or more can also be arranged. Important note: the State Fire Marshal does require you to pre-register and retains the right to cancel the classes if pre-registration attendance is less than 10 people. To pre-register please email the names to the following: Vincent.quinterno@sfm.dps.ri.gov. Identify the organization and/or the facility you represent, a valid contact number and an email address is also required.

In closing, I am glad to have had the opportunity to address the Rhode Island Business Community and also provide this free training. Education through training is the template for keeping the community safe. One of the goals at the State Fire Marshal's Office is to provide every citizen an opportunity to learn. In doing so, we strive to make Rhode Island the safest state in the country.

Cordially

Vincent Quintero, DSFM, CFI
Fire Safety Training Officer